

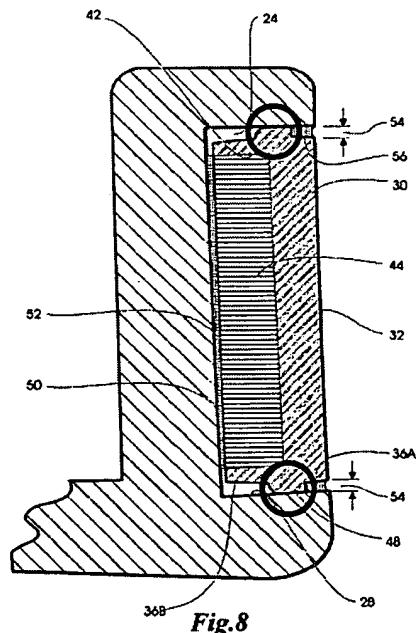
REMARKS

This communication is in response to the non-final Office Action issued February 23, 2006. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 13, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,951,518 to Solheim *et al.* (“Solheim”). The Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 10-13, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of one or both of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,390,184 to Rudell (“Rudell”) and 2,820,638 to Morrison (“Morrison”).

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

On pages 4-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 13, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of Solheim.

Solheim appears to disclose a golf putter with a head that includes a body and a face member. The Examiner has referenced figure 7 to support the proposition that the face member is substantially isolated from the body. However, as made clear by figure 8, which shows an enlarged cross sectional view of the pertinent portion of figure 7, the face insert is in direct contact with the body and thus is not substantially isolated from the body. (Figure 8 is reproduced to the right, with the areas of contact being circled.) In fact, as expressly stated in Solheim, “[t]he continuous lip 46 has an outer surface 48 that engages side wall 28 of first cavity 24 to center face insert 30 within first cavity 24” (col. 2, liens 37-43). The requirement that the face member be substantially isolated from the body member by said dampening member has been moved to claim 1, and for at least this reason the rejections based on Solheim are believed to be overcome.



Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

On pages 2-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 10-13, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of one or both of Rudell and Morrison. Specifically, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-13, and 19 in view of Rudell, and claim 3 in view of Rudell modified by Morrison.

Rudell appears to disclose a golf putter with a head that includes a body and a face member. The face member is connected to the body via an adhesive, cement, or mechanical fasteners (col. 4, lines 11-15). It is the embodiment of an adhesive coupling that the Examiner relies on to serve as the recited dampening member.

The Applicant has amended claim 1 above to recite that the dampening member includes one or more of rubber, urethane, polyurethane, butadiene, polybutadiene, and silicone. No new matter is added (*see, for example*, the Written Description at page 5, lines 14-15). As Rudell does not disclose any of these materials for use as a dampening member, the rejections based on Rudell are believed to be overcome.

Newly Added Claims

The Applicant has added claims 21-25. No new matter is added (*see, for example*, the Written Description at page 5, lines 14-17 and the drawing figures). Entry and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

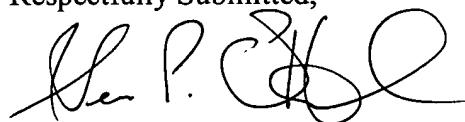
Additional Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficiency, including a \$120 one-month extension for response fee, or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Bingham McCutchen LLP Deposit Account No. 19-5127 (order no. 20003.0080).

Conclusion

Claims 1, 6, and 8 have been amended, and claims 21-25 have been added. Claims 1-8, 10-13, and 19-25 are pending in the application, and are believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing, all of the Examiner's rejections of the claims are believed to be overcome. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all claims. Should the Examiner feel further communication would help prosecution, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Reg. No. 47,252

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